

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 are pending.

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite as indicated. According to the foregoing, the claims 1 and 7 are amended taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Shinichi et al. (JP 11283127).

According to the foregoing, the claims are amended, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

REJECTION

The Office Action maintains the previous anticipatory rejection under 35 USC 102(a) over Shinichi. The Office Action page 3, item 6 is the Response to Arguments. The independent claims are 1, 6, 7 and 8, which are amended, using claim 1 as an example, to clarify the patentably distinguishing features of the present invention as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A point-service system that can be accessed by a customer using a terminal device via a network, the system comprising:

a point database recording a number of points accumulated for a customer, the points being issued by one or more point-usable facilities;

a use management database recording identifying information of the customer, a requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points, a recognition code issued for the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points, and information indicating whether the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points is used;

means for receiving the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points and for

issuing ~~at~~the recognition code for ~~at~~the requested number of reserved points ~~from among the accumulated number of points~~, in response to a ~~use-request~~ offrom the customer to use the requested number of reserved points ~~from among the accumulated number of points from the customer~~;

means for recording the issued recognition code along with the requested number of reserved points ~~from among the accumulated number of points~~ in the use management database; and

means for transmitting data of a point use ticket, comprising the requested number of reserved points ~~from among the accumulated number of points that are issued~~ and the recognition code issued for the requested number of reserved points ~~from among the accumulated number of points~~, to the customer terminal device for use of the point use ticket by the customer.

The Office Action Response to Arguments relies on Shinichi paragraphs 8, 14 and 26. However, Shinichi paragraph 8, page 6, discusses "printing means for printing ticket issuance information including an issue date of a ticket on the ticket from which ticket management data has been read by the second read-in means; ticket issuance means for issuing a ticket on which the ticket issuance information has been printed." Shinichi paragraph 22 discusses ticket issuance information to include an issue date or other information by which expiration date of the ticket 2 is known. However, Shinichi fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently (necessarily), that the ticket issuance information includes the claimed present invention's "**atthe recognition code for atthe requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points, in response to a use-request ~~offrom the customer to use the requested~~ number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of pointsfrom the customer."**

Further, Shinichi paragraph 8, page 5 discusses reading identification data from a card, but Shinichi fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently (necessarily), the details of Shinichi's identification data and Shinichi paragraph 8 is silent on whether its identification data has been issued in response to or based upon a request for a number of points from accumulated number of points. In contrast to Shinichi, the claimed present invention provides "**issuing ... recognition code ... in response to a use-request ~~offrom the customer to use the requested~~ number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points."**

Further, Shinichi paragraph 14 discusses “an IC card ... on which the number of available points that can be issued as a ticket is recorded together with the identification data,” so the identification data is associated with the number of available points, but the claimed present invention provides “***issuing ... recognition code ... in response to a use-request offrom the customer to use the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points***.” In other words, Shinichi’s available number of points on the IC card are points from which a ticket can be issued, but in contrast the claimed present invention is “***issuing athe recognition code for athe requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points***,” so the claimed “***requested number of reserved points***” differs from the accumulated number of points as available number of points, and Shinichi only discusses an identification data for the available number of points, or the accumulated number of points, rather than a requested number of points.

Further, Shinichi paragraph 26 discusses management data, but Shinichi paragraph 8 provides “storing therein a ticket on which at least an value and optically-readable ticket management data are printed in advance.” Therefore, in Shinichi the management data is printed on the ticket in advance (Shinichi FIG. 1, region 2b, paragraph 11) and Shinichi’s management data is not issued in response to a request for a number of points from accumulated number of points or “***issuing ... recognition code ... in response to a use request offrom the customer to use the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points***.”

Further, Shinichi paragraphs 8, 14 and 26 are all silent on the claimed present invention’s “means for ***transmitting data of a point use ticket, comprising the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points that are issued and the recognition code issued for the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points, to the customer terminal device*** for use of the point use ticket by the customer,” because Shinichi’s identification data is not issued in response to or based upon a request for a number of points from accumulated number of points.

Dependent claims recite patentably distinguishing features of their own, or are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from the independent claims.

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, it is believed the claims are in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

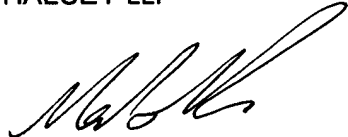
CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Mehdi Sheikerz
Registration No. 41,307

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501